

**CITY OF MADISON
COMMON COUNCIL
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: July 27, 2017

TO: Common Council Members
Mayor Paul R. Soglin

FROM: Ald. Rebecca Kemble, District 18

SUBJECT: **2nd Substitute Resolution – Legislative File No. 47707 – Creating a task force on city governance to examine and make recommendations on elected officials; the structure and powers of the Common Council and its committees and the structure and powers of the Mayor’s Office.**

Dear Colleagues:

As many of you know, last week I agreed to draft a 2nd Substitute to the government reform proposals submitted by the Mayor and Alder Eskrich.

At last week’s Common Council Executive Committee meeting (7/18/17), I realized that I couldn’t vote for either one of the proposals for two reasons:

- First, there were many good ideas in both proposals and amending one or the other on the floor was going to be a cumbersome and difficult process; and
- Secondly, the composition of the committee and the power to select members was so extreme in each proposal that I felt a compromise had to be made

Studying and making recommendations on changing the structure of city government is an enormous undertaking that should encompass a wide variety of viewpoints and vigorous public debate. As elected officials, we serve in the public trust. It would behoove us to embody our collective leadership in this effort by displaying a modicum of trust in each other and the people we serve, and by sharing the responsibility for the work across branches of government and with residents.

In that spirit, the 2nd Substitute includes nearly all of the substantive ideas contained in both the Mayor’s and Alder Eskrich’s proposals. Thanks to those of you who sent me further suggestions that I have tried to incorporate into this proposal.

- I have organized the items to be considered into four categories, and added a couple of new issues under the “Committee” category.
- Appointments to the Task Force are shared evenly by the Mayor and the President of the Common Council in this proposal, and the Mayor and President jointly appoint the Chair. The

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number of Alders on the Task Force is increased by two from the Mayor's proposal. The size of the Task Force is reduced by six from the Mayor's proposal and increased by four from that of Alder Eskrich.

- I have referred to the City's commitment to and investment in the RESJ Initiative, and indicated that the Task Force should work with the RESJI Core Team to devise the public engagement portions of its work.
- In addition to the general public, I've called out several stakeholder groups that should be directly engaged by the Task Force, including the Effective Government Guidance Team, Neighborhood Associations, and current and former committee members, Mayors and Alders.
- Since this work will involve many complex legal questions, the Task Force is staffed by the City Attorney's office, with additional city staff members to support the work as deemed necessary by the City Attorney's office and the Council President.
- With the Mayor's approval, I have added a \$30,000 budget for public engagement and outreach activities.

We have before us a great opportunity to tap the creativity and genius of the entire community for ideas about how we want to govern ourselves and manage the collective work of caring for our land, water, infrastructure and public services as we face the challenges associated with fairly rapid population growth due to development and annexation. Let us move forward together in a way that honors the magnitude of the work and the people for whom we do it.

Please let Lisa know if you would like to be added as a cosponsor.

Cooperatively yours,

Rebecca Kemble
District 18 Alder